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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/074,838	02/13/2002	Graham Roderick Lodge	P01,0587	6336

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SCHIFF HARDIN, LLP
PATENT DEPARTMENT
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EXAMINER

BASS, JON M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3639

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/074,838		GRAHAM RODERICK	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Jon Bass		3639	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This is communication filed on "February 13, 2002". Claims 1-14 are pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. An initialed and dated copy of Applicant's IDS form 1449 is attached to the instant Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robert Cordery et al (U.S. Patent No: 6, 157,919) hereinafter referenced as Cordery in view of Cecil Motley (U.S. Patent No. 2002/0136224) hereinafter referred to as Motley.

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As Per Claim 1:

Cordery discloses a postage meter machine comprising, [{col.3, lines 9-10}, open metering system], a processing unit, [{fig 2, 22}, processor], **but lacks**

a data transmission device connected to said processing unit and adapted for transmitting information between said processing unit and a remote data center via a telecommunication network;

said data transmission device including a connection arrangement for making a communication connection to a telecommunication line of said telecommunication network;

a monitoring device connected to said processing unit for monitoring a usage status of said telecommunication line and for providing usage status information to said processing unit,

and said processing unit controlling a connection setup to said telecommunication network by said data transmission device dependent on said usage status information,

Motley discloses a data transmission device connected to said processing unit and adapted for transmitting information between said processing unit and a remote data center via a telecommunication network, [{abstract}, telecommunication device compresses data via network];

said data transmission device including a connection arrangement for making a communication connection to a telecommunication line of said telecommunication network[{abstract}, telecommunication device compresses data via network];

a monitoring device connected to said processing unit for monitoring a usage status of said telecommunication line and for providing usage status information to said

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processing unit, [{fig 1, 31}, remote manger, see details within] and [{0026}, telephone network interconnection system];

and said processing unit controlling a connection setup to said telecommunication network by said data transmission device dependent on said usage status information, [{0026}, telephone network interconnection system];

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Motley's system and method to emulate an invention that deals with a postage meter machine in junction with telecommunication network to formulate a device that is able to communicate with a postage metering device through telecommunication, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

As Per Claim 2:

Cordery discloses a postage meter machine comprising, [{col.3, lines 9-10}, open metering system] **but lacks** wherein usage of said telecommunication line is shared by said data transmission device and a further telecommunication device, and wherein said processing unit suppresses setup of said connection by said data transmission device if said usage status information indicates that said telecommunication line is in use by said further telecommunication device.

Motley discloses usage of said telecommunication line is shared by said data transmission device and a further telecommunication device, and wherein said processing unit suppresses setup of said connection by said data transmission device if said usage status information indicates that said telecommunication line is in use by said further

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telecommunication device, [{0024}], a telecommunication system is presented with first telecommunication device connected to a network].

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Motley's system and method to emulate an invention that deals with a postage meter machine in junction with telecommunication network to formulate a device that is able to communicate with a postage metering device through telecommunication, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

As Per Claim 3:

Cordery discloses a postage meter machine comprising, [{col.3, lines 9-10}, open metering system] **but lacks** said usage status information includes a suppression signal generated by said monitoring device.

Motley discloses said usage status information includes a suppression signal generated by said monitoring device, [{0025}], telecommunication apparatus and methods of programming digital signal processors].

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Motley's system and method to emulate an invention that deals with a postage meter machine in junction with telecommunication network to formulate a device that is able to communicate with a postage metering device through telecommunication, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

As Per Claim 4:

Cordery discloses a postage meter machine comprising, [{col.3, lines 9-10}, open metering system] **but lacks** wherein usage of said telecommunication line is shared by said data transmission device and a further telecommunication device, and wherein said monitoring device identifies an attempt at a connection setup via said telecommunication line by said further telecommunication device, and includes information identifying said attempt in said usage status information.

Motley discloses wherein usage of said telecommunication line is shared by said data transmission device and a further telecommunication device, and wherein said monitoring device identifies an attempt at a connection setup via said telecommunication line by said further telecommunication device, and includes information identifying said attempt in said usage status information, [{0026}, telecommunication is coupled to a public switched telephone network].

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Motley's system and method to emulate an invention that deals with a postage meter machine in junction with telecommunication network to formulate a device that is able to communicate with a postage metering device through telecommunication, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

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As Per Claim 5:

Cordery discloses a postage meter machine comprising, [{col.3, lines 9-10}, open metering system] **but lacks** wherein said monitoring device generates an interrupt signal in said usage status information upon identification of said attempt, and wherein said processing unit, upon receiving said interrupt signal, causes said data transmission device to interrupt use of said telecommunication line.

Motley discloses wherein said monitoring device generates an interrupt signal in said usage status information upon identification of said attempt, and wherein said processing unit, upon receiving said interrupt signal, causes said data transmission device to interrupt use of said telecommunication line, [{fig 3, 81}, signaling detector and {fig 3,95}, processing and {fig 2, 35}, telecommunication apparatus].

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Motley's system and method to emulate an invention that deals with a postage meter machine in junction with telecommunication network to formulate a device that is able to communicate with a postage metering device through telecommunication, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

As Per Claim 6:

Cordery discloses a postage meter machine comprising, [{col.3, lines 9-10}, open metering system] **but lacks** wherein said interrupt signal is a first interrupt signal, and wherein said monitoring device, upon receiving a control signal from said processing unit to interrupt said use of said telecommunication line by said data transmission device,

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generates a second interrupt signal and transmits said second interrupt signal to said data center via said telecommunication line before interrupting said connection.

Motley discloses wherein said interrupt signal is a first interrupt signal, and wherein said monitoring device, upon receiving a control signal from said processing unit to interrupt said use of said telecommunication line by said data transmission device, generates a second interrupt signal and transmits said second interrupt signal to said data center via said telecommunication line before interrupting said connection, [{0024}], first telecommunication device connected to a network and second telecommunication device decompresses data].

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Motley's system and method to emulate an invention that deals with a postage meter machine in junction with telecommunication network to formulate a device that is able to communicate with a postage metering device through telecommunication, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

As Per Claim 7:

Cordery discloses a postage meter machine comprising, [{col.3, lines 9-10}, open metering system] a data center located remote from said postage meter machine; **but lacks** a data transmission device connected to said processing unit and adapted for transmitting information between said processing unit and said data center via a telecommunication network; said data transmission device including a connection arrangement for making a communication connection to a telecommunication line of said

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telecommunication network; a monitoring device connected to said processing unit for monitoring a usage status of said telecommunication line and for providing usage status information to said processing unit; and said processing unit controlling a connection setup to said telecommunication network by said data transmission device dependent on said usage status information.

Motley discloses a data center located remote from said postage meter machine; a data transmission device connected to said processing unit and adapted for transmitting information between said processing unit and said data center via a telecommunication network, [{0060}], transmitted to destination telecommunication];

said data transmission device including a connection arrangement for making a communication connection to a telecommunication line of said telecommunication network, [{0024}], [{0024}], a telecommunication system is presented with first telecommunication device connected to a network].

a monitoring device connected to said processing unit for monitoring a usage status of said telecommunication line and for providing usage status information to said processing unit, [{0025}], telecommunication apparatus and methods of programming digital signal processors].

and said processing unit controlling a connection setup to said telecommunication network by said data transmission device dependent on said usage status information, [{fig 3a}], processing].

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Motley's system and method to emulate an invention that deals with a postage meter

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machine in junction with telecommunication network to formulate a device that is able to communicate with a postage metering device through telecommunication, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

As Per Claim 8:

Cordery discloses a postage meter machine comprising, [{col.3, lines 9-10}, open metering system] **but lacks** wherein said telecommunication line is shared by said data transmission device and a further telecommunication device, and wherein said monitoring device identifies an attempt at a connection setup via said telecommunication line by said further telecommunication device and includes a first interrupt signal in said usage status information supplied to said processing unit, and wherein said processing unit, upon receiving said first interrupt signal, supplies a control signal to said data transmission device instructing said data transmission device to interrupt said connection, and wherein said data transmission device, upon receipt of said control signal, generates a second interrupt signal and transmits said second interrupt signal to said data center via said telecommunication line before interrupting said connection.

Motley discloses wherein said telecommunication line is shared by said data transmission device and a further telecommunication device, and wherein said monitoring device identifies an attempt at a connection setup via said telecommunication line by said further telecommunication device and includes a first interrupt signal in said usage status information supplied to said processing unit, and wherein said processing unit, upon receiving said first interrupt signal, supplies a control signal to said data transmission device instructing said data transmission device to interrupt said connection,

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and wherein said data transmission device, upon receipt of said control signal, generates a second interrupt signal and transmits said second interrupt signal to said data center via said telecommunication line before interrupting said connection, [{0024},], first telecommunication device connected to a network and second telecommunication device decompresses data].

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Motley's system and method to emulate an invention that deals with a postage meter machine in junction with telecommunication network to formulate a device that is able to communicate with a postage metering device through telecommunication, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

As Per Claim 9:

Cordery discloses a postage meter machine comprising, [{col.3, lines 9-10}, open metering system] **but lacks** A method for controlling communication between a postage meter machine and a remote data center via a communication network having a telecommunication line shared by the postage meter machine and a further telecommunication device, said method comprising the steps of: providing a postage meter machine with a processing unit and a data transmission device connected to said processing unit, and transmitting information between said processing unit and a remote data center via a telecommunication network; including in said data transmission device a connection arrangement for making a communication connection to a telecommunication line of said telecommunication network; with a monitoring device connected to said

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processing unit, monitoring a usage status of said telecommunication line and providing usage status information to said processing unit; and controlling, via said processing unit, a connection setup to said telecommunication network by said data transmission device dependent on said usage status information.

Motley discloses A method for controlling communication between a postage meter machine and a remote data center via a communication network having a telecommunication line shared by the postage meter machine and a further telecommunication device, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a postage meter machine with a processing unit and a data transmission device connected to said processing unit, and transmitting information between said processing unit and a remote data center via a telecommunication network, [{0026}, telecommunication apparatus coupled to a public switched telephone network];

including in said data transmission device a connection arrangement for making a communication connection to a telecommunication line of said telecommunication network, [{0026}, telecommunication apparatus coupled to a public switched telephone network];

with a monitoring device connected to said processing unit, monitoring a usage status of said telecommunication line and providing usage status information to said processing unit, [{0025}, telecommunication apparatus and methods of programming digital signal processors].;

and controlling, via said processing unit, a connection setup to said telecommunication network by said data transmission device dependent on said usage status information, [{fig 3b, 147}, processing].

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Motley's system and method to emulate an invention that deals with a postage meter machine in junction with telecommunication network to formulate a device that is able to communicate with a postage metering device through telecommunication, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

As Per Claim 10:

Cordery discloses a postage meter machine comprising, [{col.3, lines 9-10}, open metering system] **but lacks** wherein usage of said telecommunication line is shared by said data transmission device and a further telecommunication device, and, via said processing unit, suppressing setup of said connection by said data transmission device if said usage status information indicates that said telecommunication line is in use by said further telecommunication device,

Motley discloses wherein usage of said telecommunication line is shared by said data transmission device and a further telecommunication device, and, via said processing unit, suppressing setup of said connection by said data transmission device if said usage status information indicates that said telecommunication line is in use by said further telecommunication device, [{0024}, a telecommunication system is presented with first telecommunication device connected to a network].

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Motley's system and method to emulate an invention that deals with a postage meter machine in junction with telecommunication network to formulate a device that is able to communicate with a postage metering device through telecommunication, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

As Per Claim 11:

Cordery discloses a postage meter machine comprising, [{col.3, lines 9-10}, open metering system] **but lacks** a method comprising including a suppression signal generated by said monitoring device in said usage status information.

Motley discloses a suppression signal generated by said monitoring device in said usage status information, [{0025}, telecommunication apparatus and methods of programming digital signal processors].

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Motley's system and method to emulate an invention that deals with a postage meter machine in junction with telecommunication network to formulate a device that is able to communicate with a postage metering device through telecommunication, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

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As Per Claim 12:

Cordery discloses a postage meter machine comprising, [{col.3, lines 9-10}, open metering system] **but lacks** a method as wherein usage of said telecommunication line is shared by said data transmission device and a further telecommunication device, and comprising identifying, via said monitoring device, an attempt at a connection setup via said telecommunication line by said further telecommunication device, and including information identifying said attempt in said usage status information.

Motley discloses a method as wherein usage of said telecommunication line is shared by said data transmission device and a further telecommunication device, and comprising identifying, via said monitoring device, an attempt at a connection setup via said telecommunication line by said further telecommunication device, and including information identifying said attempt in said usage status information, [{0024}, a telecommunication system is presented with first telecommunication device connected to a network].

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Motley's system and method to emulate an invention that deals with a postage meter machine in junction with telecommunication network to formulate a device that is able to communicate with a postage metering device through telecommunication, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

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As Per Claim 13:

Cordery discloses a postage meter machine comprising, [{col.3, lines 9-10}, open metering system] **but lacks** A method comprising including an interrupt signal in said usage status information upon identification of said attempt, and said processing unit, upon receiving said interrupt signal, causing said data transmission device to interrupt use of said telecommunication line.

Motley discloses an interrupt signal in said usage status information upon identification of said attempt, and said processing unit, upon receiving said interrupt signal, causing said data transmission device to interrupt use of said telecommunication line, [{0035}, prepares the data located for transmission on channel optimization].

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Motley's system and method to emulate an invention that deals with a postage meter machine in junction with telecommunication network to formulate a device that is able to communicate with a postage metering device through telecommunication, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

As Per Claim 14:

Cordery discloses a postage meter machine comprising, [{col.3, lines 9-10}, open metering system] **but lacks** A method wherein said interrupt signal is a first interrupt signal, and comprising generating a second interrupt signal in said monitoring device, upon receiving a control signal from said processing unit to interrupt said use of said telecommunication line by said data transmission device, and transmitting said second

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interrupt signal to said data center via said telecommunication line before interrupting said connection.

Motley discloses interrupt signal is a first interrupt signal, and comprising generating a second interrupt signal in said monitoring device, upon receiving a control signal from said processing unit to interrupt said use of said telecommunication line by said data transmission device, and transmitting said second interrupt signal to said data center via said telecommunication line before interrupting said connection, [{0038}], destination network manger extracts the signaling from channel parament and routes signaling and [{0024}], a telecommunication system is presented with first telecommunication device connected to a network].

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Cordery's method and system in conjunction with Motley's system and method to emulate an invention that deals with a postage meter machine in junction with telecommunication network to formulate a device that is able to communicate with a postage metering device through telecommunication, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

Conclusion

Any concerns in regard to this communication, the examiner **Jon Bass** can be reached at **(571) 272-6905** between the hours of **9-6pm Monday through Friday**. The fax number for the establishment where the application is being process is **(571) 273-8300**.

If an attempt to reach the examiner is unsuccessful for any reason, the examiner's immediate supervisor, **John Hayes** can be reached at **(571) 272-6708**.

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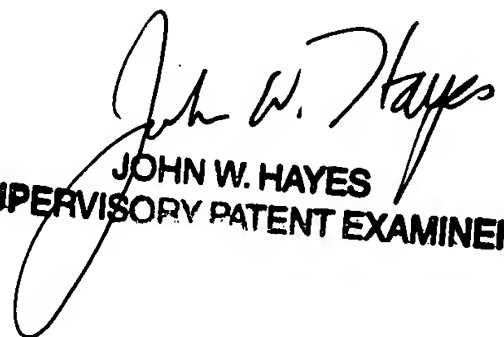
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Any response to this action should be mailed to:

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Washington, D.C. 20231


JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

